

Message Text

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47

ACTION EB-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /014 W

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R 291047Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8796

AMCONSUL OPORTO

UNCLAS LISBON 4358

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, PO

SUBJ: NEW LISBON AIRPORT: STATUS REPORT

REF: A. LISBON 3478; B. LISBON A-180

COMMERCE FOR BIC/MEPD

1. IN RESPONSE TO RECENT INQUIRIES FROM U.S. FIRMS INVOLVED
IN PREQUALIFICATION FOR NEW LISBON AIRPORT PROJECT,
COMMERCIAL SECTION HAS DEVELOPED FOLLOWING INFORMATION:
NEW LISBON AIRPORT PLANNING CABINET (GNAL) STILL HOPES TO
MAKE ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS FOR
SHORT LIST OF BIDDERS BY END OF DECEMBER. GNAL HAS
ELIMINATED SIX OF 18 PREQUALIFIERS ON TECHNICAL GROUNDS AND
WILL RANK ORDER REMAINING TWELVE IN ITS RECOMMENDATION TO
PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER. GNAL WILL SUGGEST THAT SHORT LIST
CONSIST OF FOUR GROUPS, BUT FINAL LENGTH OF SHORT LIST
WILL BE DETERMINED BY MINISTER.

2. GNAL SOURCES STATE THAT EVALUATION OF TECHNICAL ASPECTS
(I.E. DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION CAPACITY) OF PREQUALIFIED
GROUPS IS PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY; HOWEVER, EVALUATION OF
FINANCIAL ELEMENTS IN EACH GROUP WHICH SUPPOSED TO BE
HANDLED BY MINISTRY OF FINANCE OFFICIALS HAS BEEN SLOW TO
REACH GNAL. IN FACT, GNAL FEARS THAT TARDINESS OF
FINANCE MINISTRY INPUTS MAY CAUSE SLIPPAGE OF DECEMBER
31 DEADLINE.
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3. GNAL PLANS TO SOLICIT BIDS ON LIMITED TENDER BASIS FOR TECHNICAL CONSULTANT TO GOP ON AIRPORT PROJECT AS SOON AS SHORT LIST IS ANNOUNCED. BIDDERS FOR CONSULTANT ROLE WILL BE SELECTED FROM AMONG FIRMS APPEARING ON PREQUALIFICATION LIST BUT WHICH ARE NOT INCLUDED ON SHORT LIST. THIS PROCEDURE WILL ELIMINATE NEED FOR PREQUALIFICATION IN SELECTING CONSULTANT. GNAL STILL HOPES TO SEE CONSULTANT CONTRACT GO TO COMBINED PORTUGUESE-FOREIGN ENGINEERING GROUP.

4. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO HIGHLY RELIABLE SOURCES IN GNAL, SEVERAL MIXED PORTUGUESE-AMERICAN GROUPS ARE HOLDING UP WELL UNDER SCRUTINY OF EVALUATION OF PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS. THIS SOURCE STATED THAT IF GNAL HAD TO SELECT FOUR GROUPS TODAY, THREE WOULD BE PREDOMINANTLY U.S. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE VAGARIES OF PUBLIC WORKS DECISION-MAKING IN PORTUGAL, OUR POSITION RE THIS PROJECT CANNOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED UNTIL WE SEE SHORT LIST.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LISBON04358
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973116/aaaaadtz.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. LISBON 3478; B. LISBON A-180
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Jan-2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <29-Jan-2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW LISBON AIRPORT: STATUS REPORT
TAGS: BGEN, PO
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005